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NORTON TOWN CLERK

**Finance Committee Meeting
January 30, 2008
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen's Conference Room**

Present: Chairman, Lee Tarantino; Vice-Chair, Michael Thomas; Pasquale Barletta; Robert Bouchard; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers; Wayne Graf; Philip Zawasky; Town Manager, James Purcell.

Absent: Paul Helmreich.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 7:35 PM.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the January 28, 2008 Finance Committee minutes as written. Second by Mr. Zawasky. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

II. Old Business

III. New Business

Mr. Purcell distributed binders to the members of the Finance Committee that outline the FY'09 budget for the town.

Mr. Purcell stated that the funds available for FY'09 are considerably less than those of FY'08. Mr. Purcell said that there will be operations in the government side that he will recommend to be shut down, keeping only the core functions. He said he will soon be discussing these cuts with the FinCom and Selectmen.

Mr. Purcell said that there will be an Article on the Spring Town Warrant that will address a Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Purcell referred the members of the FinCom to the "**Cherry Sheet**" page in the binder. He stated that 40% of the town's income comes from State Aid. He reviewed the Local Aid breakdown, comparing FY'08 and FY'09, as well as pointing out the Chapter 70 line item – the Education Statute – stating that this is the largest money amount.

Mr. Purcell next referred to the "**Charge Sheet**". He discussed the under representation of special needs students in the Charter Schools, and how this creates an inequality of expenditure per pupil, between the Norton Public Schools and the Charter School. Mr. Purcell said that he is one of many who are working to have this funding formula changed.

The "**Local Receipts Snapshot**" page showed the \$131K in levy capacity left over that was used to reduce local receipts. Mr. Purcell said that the charges for sewer services may be removed and become part of the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Purcell said that there may be 2 or 3 Articles on the Warrant for sewers: (1) for the authorization to set up a sewer fund, (2) for a budget, and (3) for the authorization to enter in to The Regional Sewer Authority.

Mr. Purcell stated that the recent legal settlement with the Town of Mansfield resulted in Norton gaining 90K gallons in sewer capacity, with a value of \$3 million.

Mr. Purcell discussed the "**Free Cash History**" page, stating there has been a 90% decrease in free cash from FY'08 to FY'09.

Mr. Purcell said that a summation on the Control Sheet would be available for the next meeting.

"**Fixed and Shared Expenses**" – Mr. Purcell said that the combining of the \$5M Water debt and the \$1M school repairs debt is now being considered. It is beneficial to combine these borrowings to split fees and insurance costs.

Mr. Purcell discussed the search for a new health plan for town employees. The town received 3 bids - from Blue Cross (the current provider), Harvard Pilgrim, and Tufts. The town looked at many different options within each of those three providers. Blue Cross was the lowest bidder, with a 9.6% increase and knocked an additional point off – to 8.6% - if Norton agreed to keep their prescription plan with BC and not go to an outside prescription plan.

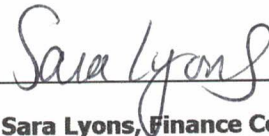
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2008 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Zawasky to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Second by Mr. Graf. Vote: Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary